

Comparison Between FMNP Checks and WIC Fruit and Vegetable Benefit (FVB)

	FMNP	FVB
When Issued?	Once every year during the market season	Monthly, Year-round
What are the dollar values of the checks and FVB's?	\$5 (6 checks totaling \$30)	\$8 \$11 \$16.50
Can the participant pay cash if the purchase price exceeds the value of the FVB or FMNP check?	Yes	Yes
Can change be given if the purchase price is less than the value of the FVB or FMNP check?	No	No
Is the participant's name on the eWIC Card or FMNP check?	No	No
Customer Usage	Participant may use check anytime between June 1 and November 30	Participant must have FVB benefits in their benefit balance
	Price is pre-filled	Farmer must slide eWIC card on Point of Sale equipment (POS)
	Participant must sign checks (folder is no longer required)	Participant must enter PIN
Product Types	Grown in Maryland or contiguous counties of bordering states	Fruits and Vegetables from any source
	Herbs allowed	No herbs
Deposit Procedure	Farmers must stamp all FMNP checks with their FMNP stamp	No deposits
	Farmers can deposit checks anytime between June 1 and December 7	Payment is automatically deposited to bank account
	Farmer is responsible for returned check fees if returned by the bank	Payment is usually received within 2 days
Agreement with the State	Each individual farmer must have a signed written agreement with the MD Dept. of Agriculture and update selling locations annually.	Each individual farmer must have a signed written agreement with the MD WIC Program & MD Dept. of Agriculture (a 3 year joint agreement) and update selling locations annually. Farmer must also have a signed agreement with Solutran for POS equipment.
Training	Each farmer must attend in-person training the first year on the program, and every 3 years afterwards. An annual update is required every year.	Each farmer must attend in-person training the first year on the program, and every 3 years afterwards. An annual update is required every year.
Questions	Contact the Dept of Agriculture at 410-841-5776	Contact the WIC Vendor Unit at 410-767-5722